

and Product Maintenance Agreement Lead Person, then she was later promoted to Technician Secretary for the Sears Service Center, leading to her current position as Cashier Accountant.

Henrietta is often found using her personal skills in the community as well. She is involved with groups such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flint, The Fair Winds Girl Scout Council, Zeta Phi Beta Amica Sorority, and the Michigan Women's National Bowling Association. In 1971, Henrietta became a member of the Foss Avenue Baptist Church, where she faithfully serves as a member of the Senior Usher Board, Foss Avenue Catering Committee, and the MLA fellowship Sunday School class.

I know that Henrietta would want to point out that the love and support of her family have contributed greatly to her success. She is very proud of her children, Veronica and Lucetia, grandsons Demetrice and Trevino, granddaughter Elexus, and of course, her husband, James Presnall.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege for me to rise today before my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Henrietta Presnall on her retirement. I wish her continued success in all her endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MATH AND SCIENCE PROFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act. The purpose of this legislation is to improve mathematics and science education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade as well as to train mathematics and science teachers.

My legislation, which has 52 cosponsors, accomplishes its objective by forging a unique partnership between students, parents, teachers and the business people in their communities.

In years past, America's schools served as unilateral learning centers where students studied, graduated and then entered the workforce. The demands of the information age and the global economy now compel U.S. educators and business people to band together in the national interest. Schools and businesses need to be partners to educate our children. Otherwise, our nation will see its preeminence in information technology implode as other nations expand their high-tech driven economies.

Already there are alarming trends. When it comes to mathematics and science education U.S. high school seniors need to be better prepared. Compared to their international peers, American high school seniors ranked near the bottom of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) that was released last year. This poor performance holds true for both mathematics and science as well as for moderate-level and top-level students.

Mathematics and science are the disciplines that have created the Internet and have driven

the Information Age. Two of the fastest growing job areas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are computer technology and health services. Both fields demand a strong background in mathematics and science.

As the Subcommittee on Basic Research's Ranking Member, I have had several discussions with representatives from the information technology community. These business people in the high-tech field have expressed their frustration in not being able to find qualified job applicants. In fact, one in ten positions in information technology is currently unfilled, according to the Information Technology Association of America. One in three job applicants tested by U.S. companies lacks the reading or mathematics skills for the job as reported by the American Management Association.

The Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act will help reverse the trends of poor test performance by U.S. students and empower businesses to enrich the pool of job applicants.

The purpose of this legislation is to improve math and science education in urban and rural areas by establishing partnerships between participating schools and businesses. My bill authorizes the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award 10 partnership grants through its Urban and Rural Systemic Initiative programs. The NSF Director will make five grants to urban areas and five grants to rural areas. Each grant will not exceed \$300,000 and the total amount authorized is \$3 million.

The purpose of these partnership grants is to train teachers and to improve teaching for students in math, science and information technology. The grants will be awarded to schools that have established partnerships with businesses.

Eligibility of the partnership grants will be based on how well the participating schools and businesses have forged their partnerships. Ways that businesses can participate with schools include: setting up college scholarships for promising math and science students, establishing jobsite mentoring and internships programs and donating computer software and hardware to their participating schools.

The legislation directs the NSF Director to conduct a long-range study on the students who have participated in the partnership grant scholarship program and their ability to land and to retain jobs in the fields of mathematics, science and information technology.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified by the support the Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act has already received and urge all Members to cosponsor this important legislation that will help prepare today's American students for tomorrow's workplace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JERRY BELL

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the works of Jerry Bell, an outstanding volunteer for Noon Day Ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jerry Bell volunteers her time to the homeless at Noon Day Ministry. Noon Day Ministry

serves approximately 300 homeless men, women and children four days a week. Jerry's commitment to volunteer work comes from a strong family support system that instilled the value of helping others. By those who work with Jerry she is described as the organizer, the person who really keeps the place in shape. By those she serves, Jerry is known for providing more than lunch. She offers hugs, a pat on the shoulder and a kiss on the cheek—the sincere message of caring for another.

Please join me in thanking Jerry Bell for her caring contributions to individuals, families and our community of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

LITTLE BOSTON BRANCH OF THE KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY WINS BEST SMALL LIBRARY AWARD

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to announce that The Little Boston branch of the Kitsap Regional Library system is the best small library in America.

Little Boston recently won the 1998 Service Award for Excellence from the National Public Library Association. This library is unique because it is located on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's reservation and is frequented by patrons who live both on and off the reservation.

Public libraries are the great equalizer in our society as they ensure free and unlimited access to invaluable educational resources for anyone who simply has the desire to learn. Libraries enhance the knowledge of not only ourselves, but also the world around us. Great libraries, like Little Boston, deserve our utmost praise and recognition. Employees continually go above and beyond the call of duty with their exceptional service to its patrons and commitment to provide enriching and informative information to everyone in the community.

Congratulations, again, to The Little Boston Library for your commitment to excellence.

THE PARENT HELP LINE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Help Line of Springfield, Illinois for their extraordinary contributions to their community.

This volunteer organization's primary function is to help parents become better parents by providing advice, support, and referrals to various community agencies. The Parent Help Line is funded by several different sources including St. John's Hospital Foundation, Ronald McDonald Charities of Central Illinois and Ameritech.

Currently, the Parent Help Line consists of 25 volunteers who respond to about 100 calls per month. While these numbers may not seem significant, each one of those hundred